

6 JUN 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Medical Staff

SUBJECT : Civil Service Commission Standards for Disability Retirement

1. Following our recent conversation concerning criteria used by the Civil Service Commission in adjudicating applications for disability retirement annuities, I discussed this matter with members of the Benefits and Services Division of this Office. The following comments reflect the information provided by that Division:

a. Among the eligibility requirements which an employee must meet for disability retirement, the Federal Personnel Manual (R 5-38) provides that, "The disease or injury which caused the disability must not be the result of vicious habits, intemperance, or willful misconduct on his part within the 5-year period immediately prior to becoming disabled." This standard is also expressed in item No. III, page 13, of the accompanying booklet, "Your Retirement System," issued by the Civil Service Commission.

b. With specific reference to situations of disablement where intemperate drinking is involved, the Office of Personnel has been informed by the Commission that the factor of alcoholism does not per se disqualify the applicant for disability annuity. Dr. Melvin Johnson, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Retirement and Insurance of the Commission, has told us that if his Bureau makes a finding that alcoholism is symptomatic of a disabling emotional or mental disorder or if the applicant has other disabling impairments independent of alcoholism, the exclusion provision quoted in "a" above does not apply.

2. The records of the Office of Personnel indicate that there have been at least three cases involving alcoholism approved by the Commission for disability annuities, namely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Executive Officer  
Office of Personnel

Attachment: A/S

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